

REMARKS

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 3, 6, 13-15, and 19-21 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 4-5, 7-12, and 16-18 have not been amended. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-21 will remain in the application.

Independent claims 1, 6, 13, and 19 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 whereby the security data is encoded with several different data keys to such that a combination of user authorization and any of the several different data keys allows for retrieval and decoding of the security data. Claim 2 has been accordingly canceled and claim 3 has been amended to remove the common subject matter now added to claim 1. Claims 14, 15, 20 and 21 have been amended to make stylistic corrections by removing the language "the steps of." No new matter has been added by these changes.

Section 112, paragraph 2, rejection

Claims 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for reference to a "second individual identity" in claim 6 that has no antecedent basis. Claim 6 has been amended to recite "the first individual identity" for which antecedent basis is provided on lines 5-6. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-12 as being indefinite is thus solicited.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Lockhart et al. (US 6,230,272). Claims 6-10, 13-15, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bjorn (US 6,035,398), and claims 11, 12, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Bjorn in view of Gressel (US 6,311,272). These rejections are believed to be overcome by the amendments to independent claims 1, 6, 13, and 19.

As noted above, independent claims 1, 6, 13, and 19 have been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 whereby the security data is encoded with several different data keys to such that a combination of user authorization and any of the several different data keys allows for retrieval and decoding of the security data. Such features for supporting multiple logins is not taught or suggested by any of the cited prior art references.

With respect to original claim 2, the Examiner alleged that Lockhart et al. disclose the use of a plurality of data keys to encode the security data at column 5, lines 22-28 and 52-62. The Examiner is mistaken. Applicant's undersigned representative can find no teaching by Lockhart et al. of encoding security data with several different data keys "such that a combination of user authorization and any of said several different data keys allows for retrieval and decoding" as claimed. On the contrary, Lockhart et al. disclose that private keys may be protected through encryption based on a multipurpose data string. Lockhart et al. do not indicate that the private keys are used to encode the "same security data" as claimed. In the absence of such teachings, independent claim 1 as amended is believed to patentably distinguish over the teachings of Lockhart et al. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and dependent 3-5 is solicited.

Applicant's undersigned representative also can find no teaching by Bjorn or Gressel of encoding security data with several different data keys "such that a combination of user authorization and any of said several different data keys allows for retrieval and decoding" as claimed. Accordingly, even if the teachings of these references could be combined as suggested by the Examiner, the claimed invention would not result. In the absence of such teachings, independent claims 6, 13 and 19 as amended are believed to patentably distinguish over the teachings of Bjorn and Gressel taken separately or together. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6-21 is thus solicited.

Conclusion

The present response is believed to obviate all rejections and objections of record. Withdrawal of all rejections and issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully requested.

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